

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 AID-05 PC-05 SS-15 EPAE-00
AGRE-00 MMO-01 SIG-03 NSC-05 SP-02 ABF-01 L-03
EB-08 DOE-15 SOE-02 PER-05 A-01 SNM-05 DEAE-00
DLOS-09 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /117 W
-----041300 021321Z /46

R 012025Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0524

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 2584

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP, TGEN, HO
SUBJ: SCIENCE ATTACHE PROGRAM AND GLOBAL ISSUES - HONDURAS

REF: STATE 118666

1. THE FOLLOWING LIST OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY GLOBAL ISSUES WILL REQUIRE INCREASING ATTENTION IN RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. DURING THE NEXT 5-Q YEARS, AND REFLECT HONDURAS' POSITION AS A DEVELOPING, AGRICULTURALLY ORIENTED COUNTRY:

- ENERGY TECHNOLOGY
- HEALTH AND NUTRITION
- POPULATION INCREASES
- FOOD TECHNOLOGY
- COMMUNICATIONS/SPACE TECHNOLOGY
- ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
- NARCOTICS INFORMATION SYSTEMS
- OCEANS

OTHER LISTED INTERESTS (REFTEL PARA 4) APPEAR TO BE OF ONLY MARGINAL RELEVANCE OR IMPORTANCE.

2. THE AID MISSION, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT, PEACE CORPS., HAVE OR
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EXPECT TO HAVE PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, HEALTH AND NUTRITION, FOOD TECHNOLOGY AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY. IN ADDITION TO THESE PROGRAMS WHICH HELP IN TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT, A PROGRAM INCLUDING AID ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOP APPROPRIATE LIGHT CAPITAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR SMALL FARMERS HAS BEGUN, I.E. INTERMEDIATE TECHNOLOGY. THIS PROGRAM, TO CONTINUE

FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS, WILL INCLUDE DEVELOPING NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN HONDURAS AND ADAPTING TECHNOLOGIES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES FOR APPLICATION HERE. LIGHT CAPITAL TECHNOLOGIES WILL ALSO BE EMPLOYED IN OTHER SECTORS.

3. THESE ISSUES CAN BE EXPECTED TO BECOME MORE IMPORTANT IN TERMS OF OUR WORLDWIDE INTERESTS AND RELATIONS. HOWEVER, BARRING UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT, THE USG'S MAJOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY THRUST IN HONDURAS IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO BE PRIMARILY IN THE ROLE OF A COLLABORATOR IN DEVELOPMENT, EITHER THROUGH PRIVATE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY OR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ADDRESSED TO THE AREAS DESCRIBED ABOVE.

4. IN VIEW OF THIS (I.E. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION TO BE HANDLED BY OTHERS), IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT PRESENT STAFF AT THIS MISSION IS ADEQUATE TO HANDLE THESE ISSUES AS THEY REQUIRE CONSULTATION AND REPRESENTATION WITH HOST GOVERNMENT. EMBASSY DOES NOT RECOMMEND ASSIGNMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OFFICER, BUT WOULD SUPPORT BRIEFINGS OR SHORT-TERM TRAINING FOR SUBSTANTIVE OFFICER GIVEN SUCH RESPONSIBILITIES. NEITHER DOES ADDITIONAL SECRETARIAL SUPPORT APPEAR NECESSARY, AS LONG AS OTHER WORKLOAD DOES NOT INCREASE IN OTHER AREAS.

5. FOREGOING RECOMMENDATION PRESUMES THAT STATE COMPONENT OF THIS SMALL EMBASSY IS NOT FURTHER CUT, AND THAT INCREASING IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ISSUES ARE OFFSET IN TERMS OF WORKLOAD
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BY DECREASES IN OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENCE ATTACHES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TEGUCI02584
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780231-0231
Format: TEL
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806105/aaaadmrt.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b7b7417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 118666
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2154268
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCIENCE ATTACHE PROGRAM AND GLOBAL ISSUES - HONDURAS
TAGS: AFSP, TGEN, HO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbs://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b7b7417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014